

Upcoming U.S. Population Releases

The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to release four major sets of statistics about the U.S. population at the end of the year. The table below explains what to look for and how they are different. In 2021, the Census Bureau will release the local population counts from the 2020 Census that are used for redistricting.

Product	2015–2019 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates	2020 Demographic Analysis	Vintage 2020 Population Estimates	2020 Census Counts for Apportionment
Release Timing	December 10, 2020 (media embargo available).	December 15, 2020 (no media embargo).	December 22, 2020 (no media embargo).	As close to the December 31, 2020, statutory deadline as possible (no media embargo).
Is this from the 2020 Census?	No. However, the American Community Survey is designed to supplement the once-a-decade census.	No. Demographic Analysis is produced independently of the census.	No. The vintage 2020 estimates are based on the 2010 Census.	Yes. These are the first results from the 2020 Census.
Purpose	Provide an annual, detailed portrait of the nation and the only source of local statistics for most of the more than 40 topics covered; inform hundreds of billions of dollars in funding decisions for services and infrastructure.	Provides a way of evaluating the quality of the 2020 Census by offering a high, middle, and low set of estimates of the U.S. population for comparison with the census results.	Provide an annual estimate of the current population by calculating population change (births, deaths, and migration) since the last census.	Determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, per the U.S. Constitution and Title 13. ¹
Timeframe represented	Data pooled from 2015 through 2019.	April 1, 2020.	April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2010, to 2020.	April 1, 2020.

¹ Additional 2020 Census results to be released in 2021 will also be used to redraw legislative districts, inform the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding, and provide data that affects communities for the next decade.

Product	2015–2019 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates	2020 Demographic Analysis	Vintage 2020 Population Estimates	2020 Census Counts for Apportionment
Data available	Information on more than 40 topics including education, income, health insurance coverage, commuting, occupation, and language spoken at home.	Estimates for three population groups by age and sex. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black alone/non-Black alone (ages 0–85+). Black alone or in combination with one or more races/non-Black alone or in combination with one or more races (ages 0–85+). Hispanic/non-Hispanic (ages 0–29). 	Total population and voting-age (18+) population; additional detail to be released in 2021.	Total resident population and overseas counts. ^{2, 3}
Geographic levels available	Nation, states, counties, places, tracts, and more. ⁴	Nation. ⁵	Nation, states, and the District of Columbia; additional geographies to be released in 2021.	Nation, all 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. ⁶
Where the data come from	Sample survey collected each month.	Analysis of birth and death records, data on international migration and Medicare records.	The previous census, updated with current data on births, deaths, and migration.	The 2020 Census.

² This includes U.S. military and federal civilian employees living overseas (and their dependents living with them overseas) allocated to their home state or the District of Columbia, as reported by the employing federal agencies.

³ Whether the Census Bureau will also provide yet to be determined counts of unauthorized immigrants in accordance with the presidential memorandum is currently under litigation.

⁴ More information about the geographic levels included in the ACS 5-year release is available at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/areas-published.html.

⁵ The Census Bureau plans to release experimental Demographic Analysis estimates of the population aged 0 to 4 at the state and county levels in 2022. These estimates will incorporate current birth records, which are not yet available from local jurisdictions.

⁶ The overseas counts will exclude Puerto Rico. Of note, population numbers for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are not used for or included in the apportionment. 2020 Census results will be available below the state level in 2021.